

# Budget Unit Brief

## FY 2017



## Newsline for the Blind

### Newsline for the Blind

Newsline for the Blind is a subscription service administered by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) known as NFB-NEWSLINE®. The service provides, at no cost to blind and visually-impaired individuals, daily access to newspapers and magazines over the phone toll-free. The Iowa Department for the Blind receives a General Fund appropriation to subscribe to the NFB-NEWSLINE® service.

Blind and visually-impaired individuals have access over the telephone to the following:

- More than 320 daily newspapers including the Burlington Hawkeye, Cedar Rapids Gazette, Des Moines Register, Iowa City Press Citizen, Iowa Shopping Cart, Mason City Globe-Gazette, Quad City Times, Sioux City Journal, and Waterloo Courier
- Iowa Information Channel
- Monthly consumer bulletins from the Iowa Attorney General's Office
- Access to several magazines
- Up-to-the-minute feeds from the Associated Press
- TV listings
- Ability to search for jobs
- Ability to read weekly Target ads

### Iowa Radio Reading Information Service (IRIS)

The Iowa Radio Reading Information Service (IRIS) is a free news and information service that broadcasts 24 hours a day, every day of the year to thousands of listeners throughout Iowa. Each day, volunteers in seven locations across the state read aloud from local newspapers.

The IRIS broadcasts readings from current newspapers and magazines, including the following:

- The Wall Street Journal
- The New York Times
- People
- Sports Illustrated
- Reader's Digest.

### Funding

The Department is appropriated \$52,000 for the Newsline for the Blind and IRIS.

### Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [216B](#)  
111 Iowa Administrative Code

Revised September 2, 2016

### More Information

Iowa Department for the Blind: <https://blind.iowa.gov/>  
National Federation of the Blind NEWSLINE®: <http://www.nfb.org/audio-newspaper-service>  
Iowa Radio Reading Information Service: <http://www.iowaradioreading.org/>  
Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>  
LSA Staff Contact: Tim Crellin (515-725-1286) [timothy.crellin@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:timothy.crellin@legis.iowa.gov)